

**Robert A. Gould**  
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**December 11, 1999**

**Assistant Secretary John Berry**  
**c/o Document Management Unit**  
**The Department of the Interior**  
**1849 C Street, NW Mailstop-7229**  
**Washington, DC 20240**  
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**1. Name: Robert A. Gould**

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**2. Will you be representing a Native Hawaiian organization?**

**yes   X   no**

**a. Please provide the name and mission of your organization:**

**b. How large is your organization's membership?**

**c. Please provide your organization's address:**

**3. Which topic(s) would you like to address: Sovereignty**

**Written testimony:**

**Dear Sir:**

**Sal Weigel's letter in the Friday Advertiser really hit the nail on the head. It's time for a reality check.**

- 1. Any coup, rebellion, overthrow, or conquest is by its very nature illegal. Once a forcible change of government succeeds, and is subsequently able to rule and be recognized by other countries as a legitimate government, it is by definition legal.**
- 2. To make the argument, as Mr. Sai does, that all transactions requiring notaries that took place since the overthrow are void because the notaries lost their license when the government was overthrown is specious and has been deemed invalid by the court.**
- 3. A number of leaders in the sovereignty movement are trying to rewrite history, and are misleading many of their followers by raising unrealistic expectations. Whether their motive is patriotic, selfish, or power acquisition is open to question. I would only ask the followers of the sovereignty movement if they would really like the monarchy back with someone as angry and vindictive as Mililani Trask as queen.**
- 4. To make the argument that a successful overthrow is null and void because it was illegal in the first place would require every government in the world to cease functioning. Since Oahu was conquered by Kamehameha and he overthrew the government on Oahu illegally, the monarchy which he established would therefore be illegal also, if one is to follow the arguments of the sovereignty movement to their logical conclusion. Thus how could it be illegal to overthrow the monarchy if it was an illegal government?**
- 5. The coup that overthrew the monarchy was not a conquest, as was the overthrow of the government of Oahu and Maui by Kamehameha; it was not an imperialistic colonization as was the case in Tahiti, Fiji, Australia, North and South America, and other nations around the world. It was a coup by citizens of the Hawaiian Nation.**
- 6. Native Hawaiians are not in the same situation as Native Americans, because the duly constituted new government of Hawaii requested annexation (indeed, the monarchy had broached the subject), and the citizens of the Territory of Hawaii requested statehood, whereas**

**Native Americans were conquered in war and were parties to treaties that they are attempting to have honored.**


**7. The Crown lands were ostensibly held in trust for the citizens of Hawaii (regardless of ethnic background), and were ceded to the United States as such, but with the added provision that they were to be held in trust for a select group of Hawaiian citizens according to ethnic background. Thus the people of the required blood quantity are actually in greater possession of the ceded lands as citizens of the United States than they were under the monarchy.**

**8. The first distribution of land to anyone other than the alii was started in the great mahele. It was not finished 45 years later when the monarchy was overthrown.**

**9. The process of land distribution under the Hawaiian Homes Act is still unfinished, much to our shame. If everything done by any government body subsequent to the overthrow is illegal, as Mr. Sai claims, then the Hawaiian Homes Act is illegal, as are OHA and all the other programs for the benefit of native Hawaiians put in place by the Territorial, State, and US Federal governments.**

**10. Finally, Hawaiians should recognize that they are citizens of a sovereign nation; the United States of America. As citizens of that nation they have much greater rights and privileges than they had under the monarchy, and much greater rights and privileges than they would have under whatever government would have taken over Hawaii had the United States not annexed it.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Gould", written in a cursive style.

**Robert A. Gould  
(808) 254-5242  
FAX: ext \*\*\***